

REMARKS

Claims 1-9 and 16-19 have been examined. The Examiner has indicated that claims 1-9 and 16-19 are allowed.

I. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,731,372 to Binnard (“Binnard”)

The Examiner has rejected claims 10-13, 20-25 and 27-29 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Binnard.

A. Claim 10

Applicant submits that claim 10 is patentable over the cited reference. For example, claim 10 recites that compressed air is provided into a main pressurizing chamber or a sub-pressurizing chamber, and the main pressurizing chamber and the sub-pressurizing chamber are moved independently.

By controlling the pressure in the main pressurizing chamber and the sub-pressuring chamber, it is possible to vary pressing forces on the movable base by the main pressurizing chamber and the sub-pressurizing chamber independently. Accordingly, precise pressure control can be facilitated (see non-limiting embodiment in paragraphs [20] and [22]).

In Binnard, a fluid mount has a first system and a second system. The second system is stacked on top of, and positioned directly above, the first system, such that the systems are coaxial and move concurrently. With this design, the pistons cooperate to dampen vibration and support the load, and the subs system is effectively attached in parallel. The resulting fluid mount has a relatively high load carrying capacity with a relatively small footprint (col. 3, lines

37-42; col. 5, lines 1-8 and 34-36 and col. 6, lines 5-9). Thus, Binnard does not teach or suggest that the first system and the second system move independently, as recited in claim 10.

Further, even though Binnard discloses that a control system connected to the chamber is separated, and the pressure of the chambers are controlled separately, the actual first and second system cannot move independently because the piston connector mechanically and rigidly connects the first piston and the second piston (col. 5, lines 6-8; col. 6, lines 13-16).

For at least the above reasons, Applicant submits that claim 10 is patentable over the cited reference.

B. Claims 11-13

Since claims 11-13 are dependent upon claim 10, Applicant submits that such claims are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency.

C. Claims 20 and 27

Since claims 20 and 27 contain features that are analogous to the features recited above for claim 10, Applicant submits that such claims are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency.

D. Claims 21-25 and 28-29

Since claims 21-25 and 28-29 are dependent upon one of claims 20 or 27, Applicant submits that such claims are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency.

II. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of Binnard and U.S. Patent No. 6,473,159 to Wakui et al. (“Wakui”)

The Examiner has rejected claim 26 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of Binnard and Wakui. However, since claim 26 is dependent upon claim 20, and Wakui fails to cure the deficient teachings of Binnard in regard to claim 20, Applicant submits that such claim is patentable at least by virtue of its dependency.

III. Allowable Subject Matter

As set forth above, the Examiner has indicated that claims 1-9 and 16-19 are allowed.

IV. Newly Added Claim

By this amendment, Applicant adds new claim 30. Applicant submits that claim 30 is patentable for at least analogous reasons as claim 16.

V. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Application No.: 10/694,841

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The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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